



Swim Team, p.15



Clear backpacks for school, p.8

Outstanding Citizen Cahalan Talks about her Experience

by Lois Rosado

Maggie Cahalan, Greenbelt's 2022 Outstanding Citizen, thought she was meeting Springhill Lake Elementary students from the Earth Squad when she headed to the opening night of the Labor Day Festival. However, she and her family have been attending the Friday night festivities for many years. "I usually check out the food booths to see what was available for my family, who are mostly vegan, and was often disappointed. I remember when Green ACES gave awards for booths that were the greenest in packaging and food," says Cahalan.

Labor Days Past

Cahalan used to help run a Peace Committee booth during a



PHOTO BY SHARON NATOLI PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2022 Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Maggie Cahalan, arrives at the reviewing stand of the Greenbelt Labor Day parade on September 5, 2022.

time when nonprofits had booths for the duration of the Festival. The nonprofits with booths were required to offer either a game or food to Festival goers, recalls Cahalan, but they struggled to meet the health department's requirements for food, she says. She fondly remembers a year when the Peace Committee suc-

ceeded and her son Joel, then in high school, and his friends organized the sale of chickpea hummus on pita bread vegan sandwiches. "They somehow managed to pass the health department's inspection!" marvels Cahalan. Most years, though, they found a peace-equity-related quiz

game to draw folks in to talk about labor and peace issues. "By the end of the four days we were all exhausted, but we did feel more of a part of the Festival and it was easier to make a connection with the concerns of workers and the labor

See CAHALAN, page 6

Runner Sam Stribling Heads To Iowa for Junior Olympics

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt resident Sam Stribling Jr. is 11 years old and he's been running since he was 5. This month he will head to the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympics, in Des Moines, Iowa. "The AA Junior Olympics is the national culminating event for the AAU track and field athletes from all across the country will be attending," explains Warren Burris, coach of the 301 Panthers, a team that draws youth runners from Greenbelt, Bowie, Upper Marlboro, Silver Spring, Fort Washington, Glen Burnie and Odenton.

Sam began running track with the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club at 5 years old. The following year he joined the Glenarden Track Club, where he excelled under Coach Rich Branch, his mother, LaWann Stribling, told the News Review. When Covid-19 shut down the indoor season for the runners, Sam's parents had to search for a team that was still practicing. In 2021 they found the 301 Panthers, led by Burris.

The Panthers train primarily at the Prince George's Sports and



PHOTO BY GREGORY JONES, ROOT EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Samuel Stribling Jr. runs the AAU Regional 11-year-old boys 200 meters, in which he won the gold medal.

Learning Complex in Landonver on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and at various locations in Bowie when that's not available. They have approximately 70 athletes and, of those, 20 qualified for the Junior Olympics this year. Two of those athletes come from Greenbelt — Sam Stribling Jr. and Joshua Onuzulike, who qualified but will not be attending the event.

Last year Stribling competed in the International Youth Championship held July 15 through 17 at the sports complex. There he set the record for the 10-and-under boys 400 m with a time of 1:02:43, shared his mother. He's qualified for Junior Nationals each year since 2020, but last year was the first time he was able to participate. Just days before the Stribling family was to drive to North Carolina, they discovered the team's registration didn't clear and they couldn't compete. "He was completely devastated," said his mother. However, he continued to train hard through the winter and spring.

The AAU Districts and Regionals took place on June 17 and 18 and June 23 through 25.

See STRIBLING, page 13

What Goes On

No city council meetings this week.

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Mengel Takes on a Life-long Goal: Owning a Restaurant

by Erica Johns



PHOTO COURTESY THE NATOLI FAMILY

Joe Natoli Jr., right, passes Generous Joe's to Aaron Mengel, left, in June 2023.

In this final part of a three-part series, Erica Johns introduces readers to Aaron Mengel, the new owner of Generous Joe's.

Aaron Mengel began his love of cooking as a child living in Baltimore. He would often accompany his mother to her restaurant job when she couldn't afford babysitters. Spending so much time in restaurants as a child helped develop his passion for cooking.

Mengel moved to Greenbelt as a teenager, when family trouble led him to be taken in by extended family living in Greenbelt. He said he found a close-knit community and kind people who were always willing to help each other.

"I sat with Golden here; we talked baseball and boxing. He always remembered who you were," said Mengel. "From

See JOE'S, page 9

Utopia Film Festival

First New Deal Spirit Award To Be Presented; Films Due Soon

by Susan Gervasi

Happy days are here again. Greenbelt's 19th annual Utopia Film Festival will celebrate the 90th birthday of FDR's New Deal with the first New Deal Spirit Award for the film or animation which best reflects that spirit. Utopia, now in its 19th year, will be held in the New Deal city of Greenbelt on October 20 to 22. The winning entry, selected by a committee of volunteer festival screeners, will be shown that weekend in the city's historic Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Submission Deadline

Filmmakers and animators must submit their work to Utopia through filmfreeway.com. The entry fee varies according to date of submission, with the final deadline for all entries Friday, August 4. The award-winning work must fall into one of three categories: a full-length documentary or full-length feature film (no longer than 90 minutes); a short doc or short feature (no longer than 30 minutes); or a work of animation.



New Deal Connection

Greenbelt was one of three idealistically-planned green towns built by Franklin Roosevelt's Resettlement Administration. The experimental towns were intended to move Depression-era city families from blighted neighborhoods to healthier suburban villages. Greenbelt, built in 1936-37, was the first completed and the most controversial. Town businesses were organized as consumer cooperatives, and critics dubbed Roosevelt advisor Rexford Tugwell "Rex the Red" for his egalitarian views. The city is considered a planning landmark.

See UTOPIA, page 12

Letters to the Editor

Unleashed Dog Attacks, Injures Another Dog

On Thursday, July 13, at approximately 8:30 a.m. my dog was violently and savagely attacked by another dog. The offending dog was neither leashed nor secured.

In the middle of the street, within sight of home, I heard barking and shouts of “Come back. Come back.” I look to see a ferocious dog, approximately 30 yards away, racing towards the two of us.

The recollection of my impression, immediate to the event? “This can’t possibly be happening,” I thought. “No one could be that careless, that reckless, especially with that dog.”

Both the menacing dog and its owner are well known and avoided by neighborhood dog owners/walkers.

Honestly, and reasonably, I was in apprehension of imminent bodily harm for both Rocky and me.

With vet notes in hand, the only responsible act I must now make is to file an official complaint. I shudder to think if that dog attacked one of the many smaller dogs on the street, or one of the more frail dog owners with mobility issues?

Initially speaking with the police and animal control, I was crystal clear that I want an order directing the owner to keep his dog on a leash, as well as a harness and a muzzle, whenever it is out of the house, as well as a lock on the yard gate, if the dog is back there.

Afterward, I’ll go to the county to see what further remedies are available.

Historically, or today, I’ve never seen a “Safe Space.” But if we can all agree that being able to walk a dog safely, anywhere in Greenbelt, is a goal to which we can aspire, it starts with a dog’s owner taking responsibility and control.

A dangerous dog with a feckless, inept owner serves no one well.

Lawrence Hawkins

Light Impacts Wildlife

As a person very concerned with the preservation of life on our planet, I hope that all Greenbelters read this brief blurb from a recent email from the National Wildlife Federation. I live in GHI where so many people are thoughtful about their gardens and the environment in general, yet porch lights and garden lights are left on all night long, sometimes blinking, sometimes in many colors of the rainbow. All of this is detrimental to the wildlife in our gardens and our beautiful surrounding protected forest.

This is a plea to the City of Greenbelt and GHI to find alternative nighttime safety lighting, and for all to consider turning these lights off to allow the wildlife we share this space with to thrive, as we do by living in this space.

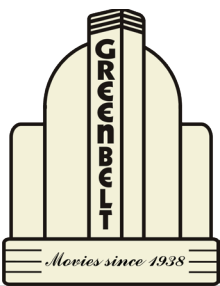
How Light Pollution Impacts Wildlife & How You Can Help

From cougars and bats to butterflies and sea turtles, wildlife are increasingly threatened by light pollution, but simple solutions can help.

More than 80 percent of the world population lives under light-polluted night skies – and

for every human stargazer who bemoans the disappearance of the Milky Way, light pollution disorients and exposes countless animals to danger. The good news? Addressing light pollution has clear and immediate benefits for wildlife, and every person has the ability to make a difference.

Sandra Miller



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JULY 21ST - JULY 27TH

Oppenheimer (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2023) (180 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 6:00 PM w/ guest speaker
Sat. 1:00 PM
Sun. 11:30 PM, 3:30 PM (OC)
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 6:00 PM
Thurs. 6:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 4:15 PM
Sat. 6:00 PM
Mon. 1:00 PM
Wed. 6:30 PM

Barbie (PG-13) (CC) (DVS)
(2023) (114 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 3:15 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 7:30 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)
Wed. 5:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:15 PM
Sun. 7:00 PM
Mon. 5:30 PM
Tues. 6:30 PM
Thurs. 6:30 PM

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (NR)
(1979) (103 mins)
Wed. 7:00 PM

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG)
(2009) (87 mins)
Free School’s Out screening sponsored by Labbe Orthodontics!
Thurs. 1:00 PM

Tickets available until 8/3. Check greenbelttheatre.org for more showtimes.

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

Oppenheimer

Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) works with a team of scientists to develop the atomic bomb. Also starring Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Kenneth Branagh and Florence Pugh. Writer-Director Paul Schrader (Taxi Driver, Raging Bull and Last Temptation of Christ), writing on Facebook, says the Christopher Nolan film is the “best, most important film of this century. If you see one film in cinemas this year it should be Oppenheimer. I’m not a Nolan groupie but this one blows the doors off the hinges.”

Barbie

To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you’re a Ken. Directed by Greta Gerwig and starring Margie Robbie, Ryan Gosling, America Ferrera, Kate McKinnon and Michael Cera. “Barbie first reactions: witty, impeccably designed, overblown fun,” says Christopher Campbell of Rotten Tomatoes.

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars

Documentarian D.A. Pennebaker focuses his lens on a 1973 concert by David Bowie, who performs under the moniker Ziggy Stardust with his glam-rock backing band, the Spiders from Mars. While some backstage footage of the theatrical singer-songwriter is featured, the majority of the film is devoted to the music played onstage, which includes hits, album cuts and covers of Rolling Stones and Velvet Underground songs. Bowie also shocks fans by announcing his intention to drop the Stardust persona.

Fantastic Mr. Fox

After 12 years of bucolic bliss, Mr. Fox (George Clooney) breaks a promise to his wife (Meryl Streep) and raids the farms of their human neighbors, Boggis, Bunce and Bean. Giving in to his animal instincts endangers not only his marriage but also the lives of his family and their animal friends. When the farmers force Mr. Fox and company deep underground, he has to resort to his natural craftiness to rise above the opposition.



- News Review, March 29, 2018

Correction

Last week we reported “Metro’s Green Line Closures to Run from July 22-Sept. 4.” For the first weekend of the shutdown, July 22-23, Fort Totten station Green Line will also be closed, although the Red Line will remain open. A shuttle will run from the Greenbelt Metro to the Georgia Avenue Petworth station that weekend. See wmata.com/initiatives/plans/2023-Major-Construction/Travel-Alternatives.cfm for the July 22-23 shuttle map and other information.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

Produce Distribution At Another Site for July

The New Produce Distribution location for July only will be Thursday, July 20, 1 to 3 p.m. at the lower-level parking lot behind the Municipal Building. Drive-thru and walk-ups are welcome.



At the Library

Regular hours at the Greenbelt Library are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Greenbelt Library’s schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

The Teen Action Group at the Greenbelt Library is on hiatus until the fall.

Special Events

Animals in My Backyard. Tuesday, July 25, 3:30 p.m., ages 2 to 12. What are some of the animals that we might find in our backyard or surrounding areas? Meet some live animals that might be living near you. Presented by Echoes of Nature. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8257316.

75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the U.S. Army. Wednesday, July 26, 6 p.m., ages 18+. Discover the history of desegregation in the U.S. Army, learn about recent legislation and resources addressing veterans’ issues, and share your experiences. Presented by District 22 Legislative Members. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8796372.

Storytimes

Friday, July 21, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8555433.

Monday, July 24, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8555392.

Tuesday, July 25, 6:30 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8555471.

Astronomical Society Meets on Thursday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet on Thursday, July 27 at 7:15 p.m. (note earlier start time) in Room 114 of the Community Center. The group will show the documentary Good Night, Oppy, the story of NASA’s Mars Rover Opportunity and its 15-year exploration of the Martian surface. The event is free and open to the public. This is an in-person-only event due to licensing restrictions.

Mosquito Tip Pollinators & Pesticides

Like birds, pollinators are harmed by pesticides. Many different pollinators – bees, beetles, butterflies, moths, flies, ants and bats – are busy in our gardens, meadows, lawns and fields, visiting flowers in search of their food. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 75 percent of the world’s flowering plants and 35 percent of the world’s food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce, including apples, coffee, chocolate, melons, peaches, berries and potatoes. But pollinators are increasingly threatened by exposure to pesticides, either by direct or indirect contact and by contaminated nesting material and areas. Lab tests show that 90 percent of pollen samples from bee hives in agricultural landscapes and more than 90 percent of stream samples in the U.S. are contaminated with pesticides.

Spraying pesticides to kill mosquitoes is a big part of the problem. While mosquitoes increasingly develop a resistance to pesticides, requiring the use of more and more of these toxic substances, pollinating insects decline and die. Many native bees, for instance, are at risk of extinction. To keep pollinators alive and busy, avoid using pesticides and focus on prevention instead. Destroy mosquito breeding sites by diligently removing sources of standing water on property, and by treating areas of standing water that can’t be removed with Mosquito Bits and Mosquito Dunks. To learn more, to support this work and/or to volunteer, email [GreenCAPS – Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides](mailto:GreenCAPS@GreenbeltCitizensAvoidingPesticides.com), at GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com.



Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Community Center beginning at 11 a.m. Meals must be reserved one week ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Live Webinar on Probate Services

On Thursday, July 27 at 7 p.m. Realtor Fanita Pegues presents How to Avoid the Seven Biggest Mistakes made with Probate Estates. Contact Brendy Garcia at 240-424-0302 to register.

For more events and information consult the the July issue of the GAIL Guide at greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments/greenbelt-cares/senior-services-gail-program/the-gail-guide.

Chess Club Meets

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Monday, July 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the New Deal Café. The group meets on the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month.

This group is for all ages and skill levels. For more information, call Effie at 443-415-1053.

Français, s’il vous plaît: French at the Café

A French conversation group meets at the New Deal Café on Thursdays at 6 p.m. All levels and ages welcome.

Wednesday Lunch At the New Deal Café

Telecommuters, retirees and all others are invited each Wednesday this summer for lunch at the New Deal Café, 113 Centerway. Interested in meeting new people, building community and supporting your Café? Join us from noon to 1 p.m.

For questions contact rspeterson1@gmail.com.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

See Creative Kids Camp Performances and Art

Greenbelt Recreation’s Creative Kids Camp invites community members to attend free, family-friendly performances on the last day of each camp session. See youth ages 6 to 12 and select staffers perform Hidden Lands, an original musical written and directed by Performing Arts Coordinator Chris Cherry. Join the campers as they journey to a fantastical island full of pirates and exotic creatures where they learn the importance of imagination and creativity.

Performances will take place at 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. in the Community Center gym on Fridays July 28 and August 11. Following the 2:15 p.m. shows, enjoy additional short performances and an art show, as campers show off skills and creations from their elective afternoon classes.

For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-397-2208.

Fire Department Hosts Craft Fair on July 22

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad and its Ladies Auxiliary invites the community to Be Jolly in July with a vendor show at the firehouse on Saturday, July 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come find handcrafted items, decorations, gifts, crafts and more. Food and drinks will be sold.

Contact Kim Lewis at 240-304-8776 or firemama_35@msn.com for vendor space information.

Golden Age Club Upcoming Meetings

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Community Center. Visitors are always welcome. July 26, BINGO

Writers Group Meets on July 21

The Greenbelt Writers Group will hold its July meeting on Friday, July 21 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center. July is summertime – and it’s been hot. Maybe members can share a new or old writing related to summertime.

Also, at the May meeting, a word was chosen by each to do a 10-minute writing challenge. Since we have not had time to hear all of these writings, they can be shared at the July meeting. There may also be time for open readings and group discussions.

The group is always looking for more members, so join in on July 21. For more information, contact Barbara Ford at barb.ford@comcast.net.



PORCH Collections

Upcoming Greenbelt PORCH pickups are scheduled below:

Sunday, July 23 – by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors), 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, July 30 – by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Leave donations of nonperishables and hygiene products by the front door marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. Ensure that donated items have not expired.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome. Coordinators in Greenbelt East are needed. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruck@gmail.com.



Greenbelt Access Television

Greenbelt Access Television


July 22, Sat - July 28, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Hometown Media Award Winners
Join us for a series of public-access films from across the country, recognized by the Foundation of the Alliance for Community Media.
In order:
Shut Down Creach! No Drone Warfare by Northampton Open Media, **One Bullet, Many Lives** by HC Media, **Alcohol Poisoning: When Drinking Turns Dangerous** by Newington Community Television, **African Heritage Month - The Resiliency of our African Business Owners** by County Cable Montgomery, **The Eastside Extra** by GOedtechGO, and **A Love Letter to DPW** by City of Hyattsville.

New This Week
TeaFairy Season 3 Episode 1: For the Birds
TeaFairy returns for an all-new season! Join TeaFairy, Jennifer, and friends for playing, singing, show-and-tell, and storytime!

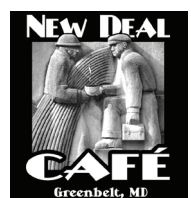
All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit GreenbeltAccessTelevision.com for new video productions.



This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 7/20	FRI 7/21	SAT 7/22	SUN 7/23	
FUNDRAISER FOR THE LABOR DAY FESTIVAL 7-10pm Bachelor & Bad Actress Greenbelt Honk Situation Griefcat	Tommy Lepson and The Bad Dawgs 8-11pm Roots Americana Band ; originals and funky covers	Jazz Jam 2-5pm Soulfied Village 8-11pm Bringing funk, rock, pop and R&B	Deaf Brunch* 10:30a-12pm Purple 6-8pm A good dose of the Grateful Dead	
MON 7/24	TUES 7/25	WED 7/26	TH 7/27	MON - FRI
Chess Club 6-8pm NDC BOARD MEETING 6:30-8pm All are welcome!	Tunes Tuesday Open Mic w/ Michael McTrousers 6:15-9:30pm Sign in and sing!	The Porch Delights 7-9pm Front porch style Americana	Lynn Hollyfield 7-9pm A heartfelt observer of the world brings her passion	Happy Hour 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

Join or renew your membership. Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

*For more information on these and other events, visit the **NDC CALENDAR** page on our website.

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS COURTESY OF A GENEROUS DONOR.

City Notes

A Museum Open House attracted 15 visitors; with inside temperatures over 80 degrees, a second air conditioning unit was requested. Street Maintenance/Special Details painted the fire-house lot and Horticulture/Parks resurfaced the 44 Court Ridge playground. Refuse/Recycling collected 26.07 tons of refuse and 9.28 tons of recyclables. Sustainability/Environmental delivered BigBelly receptacles to neighboring communities.

Planning staff addressed a resident’s questions about a landscape buffer easement.

The Community Center accommodated the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Pottery Group, Labor Day Committee and 13 rentals. Several HVAC units malfunctioned; repairs are underway.

Creative Kids Camp culminated with the camp musical and many exhibitions. Recreation staff facilitated Pottery Group and Arts Advisory Board meetings. Aquatic & Fitness Center staff continued swim lessons and tested two lifeguard candidates. Therapeutic Recreation consulted transportation contractors about Fall Senior Globetrotting.

Park rangers, including one newly hired, completed First Aid/CPR/AED training.

CARES facilitated Green Ridge House’s annual Energy Assistance Workshop.

Food Rescue Group Needs Volunteers

Prince George’s County Food Equity Council (pgcfec.org) has collaborated with Food Rescue US to try and prevent food waste and take surplus food from restaurants, grocery stores or farmer’s markets and deliver it to public food banks and soup kitchens in the county. One such “rescue” is located right here in Greenbelt, our local Farmers Market, scheduled each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until mid-November. Two volunteers with two cars will show up around 1:45 p.m. and will check in with farmers and vendors to see if they would be willing/able at the close of the market to donate surplus food to a church-run food bank in Laurel. Volunteers will bring cardboard boxes to collect food, then drive for 15 minutes up to Laurel to drop off collected food to church staff, who will keep that food in cold storage until ready to distribute to those in need. If interested, one of the local Food Rescue volunteers, Joe Robbins (robbins629@gmail.com), is happy to answer any questions. Sign up at the following website: bit.ly/pgcfr_signup. The group’s motto is Be the Rescue.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment. A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR JULY 24 - 28

Monday, July 24, **NO MEETING**

Wednesday, July 26, **NO MEETING**

Thursday, July 27 at 7 pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING (BERWYN HEIGHTS)**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Appeals
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Employee Relations Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.

TRINITY CHURCH / COMPOSTING SITE CLEANUP

AUGUST 5, 10 AM - 1 PM
TRINITY ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 7800 GOOD LUCK RD, LANHAM

Be a part of the community effort to remove illegally dumped tires from the environment. Volunteers will work with Public Works and Compost Crew staff to remove illegally dumped tires from the future location of a new composting site.

Register by contacting Luisa Robles at lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT ARTS

CREATIVE KIDS CAMP PRESENTS: HIDDEN LANDS
All ages. FREE. Fridays, 7/28 and 8/11, 10 am & 2:15 pm
Enjoy the original musical written and directed by Chris Cherry and performed by Creative Kids Camp. For free tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208.

ALL AGES ART WORKSHOP
Friday, July 21, 6 - 8 pm, Greenbelt Community Center
Create upcycled, stuffed monster friends with artist Gina Denton. All ages. \$5 residents, \$10 non-residents. Details and sign-up with activity # 333209-1: <https://bit.ly/42UVwyD>.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON WORKSHOP
Sunday, August 6, 1 - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center Front Lawn
Learn how to tie dye with artist Vanessa Zanin. All ages. FREE. Details and sign-up: <https://bit.ly/3IG0ZX>.

THE CITY OF GREENBELT IS HIRING LIFEGUARDS!

Must be at least 16 years old or older. Apply online today by visiting www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs!

Lifeguarding classes are offered by the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center; call (301) 397-2204 for more information.

ASK ME ABOUT ARPA

Your website for all of *Greenbelt’s ARPA projects & grants*, including:

- Greenbelt Education Scholarship Grant
- Homebuyer Grant Program
- Tree Canopy Grant
- Micro Grant
- Business Improvement Recovery Fund, Round III
- Business Capital Infrastructure Grant Program

View all grant programs at a glance at www.engagegreenbelt.org/grants.
View the most recently updated ARPA programs by visiting www.engagegreenbelt.org/updates.
For all up-to-date ARPA program information including project selection, project updates, department information, and more, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.



BUDDY ATTICK PARKING LOT WORK JULY 19 - 23

Starting Wednesday, July 19, contractor work will begin in the Buddy Attick Park parking lot. Although the lot will remain open, certain areas will be closed for parking where work is being done. The work will continue for five days with an estimate end date of July 23.

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, & PAINT RECYCLING

Saturday, July 22
9 am - 12 pm
Public Works Yard,
555 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD
Paint is \$5 per can
NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs
NO Tube TVs
Questions?
Call (301) 474-8004

CURRENT FREE CARES PROGRAMS

BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY HEALTH FAIR

August 22, 10 am - 3 pm
Sign-up required. To register: <https://forms.gle/AoXwyNna5XcHNYbU8>.
Contact Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov

EMERGENCY DIAPER PROGRAM

Supporting Greenbelt families in need of diapers. Greenbelt residents only, you must sign-up each month.
To register: <https://forms.gle/CAVPPThr4TsP4XZC7>.
Questions? Call (240) 542-2019.

AGING SOLO

Tuesdays, September 12 - October 17, 1 - 2:30 pm, Zoom
Aging Solo is a nationally awarded program that focuses on taking charge of your aging. Aging Solo will help you reflect on priorities, map out your support network, and put plans in place. To register please use the following link: <https://forms.gle/nSbh3DdHiYZZRfdL9>.

NURSERY PROJECT

September 19 - November 14
Services includes diapers, formula, wipes, and more. Contact Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

NURSING PROGRAM

Starts in mid September
Services include bathing assistance, medication management, and more. Contact Sharon Johnson at (240) 542-2029 or sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MY GROCERIES TO GO

Limited slots available. Participants 60+ will receive a monthly grocery box. Ccontact Brendy at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

PINK PANTRY

Assists low-income residents with access to menstrual products. To receive please register: <https://forms.gle/tUkz6k7PdvbnHDD7>. Seeking donations and volunteers.
Contact Katherine at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

ABUNDANT AGING-IN-PLACE: BEING BETTER PREPARED FOR THE BEST PHASE OF YOUR LIFE THURSDAY, JULY 20 AT 7PM

Join Joan Jackson Owner of JMJ Information Services, LLC. Founder and Content Creator for the website, balancedabundantliving.com and explore the aging-inplace concept, its benefits and challenges, and the resources and support available to help seniors achieve this goal. To register visit bit.ly/3JSH1UN.

WHO CAN GET MEDICAID?

To be eligible, you must: Be pregnant (you do not need to be a citizen to apply), Live in Maryland, and Meet income limits. The best way to know if you can get Medicaid is to apply.

What healthcare can I get? Medicaid will pay for: Doctor visits, Prenatal visits – doctor visits to check you and baby before baby is born, Hospital care, Hospital stay – when you have baby, Dental care Lab work and tests, Prescription drugs – medicine from your doctor, Mental health care, Behavioral health care - help to stop smoking, drinking alcohol or using drugs, Transportation services - a ride to and from medical care through Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) .

Starting July 1, 2023, you can apply: Online at marylandhealthconnection.gov, By using the app: Apple or Android, By calling 1 (855) 642-8572. TTY users call 711 for Maryland Relay, In-person at a local Health Department, In-person at a local Health and Human Services Office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019. To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

Paper Balloting Gets Council’s

Vote for November Election

CAHALAN continued from page 1

by Cathie Meetre

A brief but spectacular Greenbelt City Council meeting on July 10 marched effectively through the business at hand and was particularly informative about plans for the upcoming city election. The last election was marred by the late issuance of mail-in ballots. Elections Committee Chair Steven Gilbert is confident that these issues will not arise in 2023.

In supporting the request that council authorize the engagement of three companies to provide the kind of service required for the election, Gilbert explained the differences in the voting process this year. Of particular interest was the ability of residents to go to any of the polling places to vote as all will have the ability to interactively check off the resident from the collective list of voters. In previous years, residents had to go to a particular polling place and, as Gilbert noted, there were always strays. Mail-in and early voting will be tracked this year, so mail-in voters will receive confirmation that ballots were received.

Paper Prevails

Perversely perhaps, deep into the electronic age, the city is ditching voting machines and embracing paper ballots. The virtue of the paper ballots is that mail-in, early and in-person voting all use the same form/process and a tangible record remains. Mailed and early votes are held in their sealed envelopes and scanned on election day by poll workers. On election day, in-person voters fill in their choices on a paper form, scan it themselves and then drop the form into the ballot box. Each ballot, however cast, thus has both electronic registration and a physical piece of paper that represents and validates it.

Resident Michael Hartman expressed his pleasure that the Elections Committee was addressing many of the accessibility concerns that had been an issue in previous elections.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

City Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator Tyra Smith addressed council to recommend the engagement of Tribesby, a consulting company, based on their response to a request for proposals to conduct a study and make recommendations on the city’s approach to DEI. Tribesby’s proposal is based on talking to city staff and using those conversations to compose and administer a survey with a subsequent report and follow up. The motion passed.

Aquatic Facility Charges

In a geographic conundrum, residents of the Gates of Cipriano on Greenbelt Road have been paying resident-level fees at the Aquatic Center but, in fact, do not pay city taxes to Greenbelt and will, in the future, have to pay non-resident rates. This will be an even more bitter pill to swallow as rates are scheduled to go up in September, as indicated by the first reading of a resolution to raise season pass rates and daily admission prices.

Bus Parking Concerns

Resident and school bus driver Donna Petersen expressed concerns about the dirt and gravel road over which buses must pass at the rear of the Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) when dropping

off students. She said that the paved parking had been assigned to parents but buses were navigating gravel, mud and ruts that raised clouds of dust that students must walk through to get to the temporary classrooms. Expressing concern for student welfare, she said she had been told that this area can’t be paved because GMS is a ‘green school.’ Both Councilmembers Rodney Roberts and Judith Davis were in favor of a solution that didn’t result in more impermeable surfaces and staff were requested to draft a letter to the Prince George’s County Public Schools superintendent and bus/facilities staff about the issue.

Parks & Recreation Month

Mayor Emmett Jordan welcomed Frank Jones, AJ Sesay and Jerold Joyner who accepted a proclamation on behalf of the city Recreation Department. Springhill Lake Recreation Center Director Jones reported that his location’s summer kids’ programs were fully booked and that he was optimistic about the expansion of middle school level programs through the school year. Sesay also reported that the programs at the Community Center were thriving, particularly the teen YoGo program with its many field trips.

Administrative Report

Interim City Manager Tim George reported that staff were vetting applications for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants and that the Public Information Office had begun making Welcome Kits available to city HOAs and other housing-related groups. The city audit is also underway.

movement and the Festival due to the nonprofits having more of a presence,” says Cahalan.

The Announcement

When Cahalan was announced as Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen a song by Sy Kahn came into her head. It’s a song about a man called Clarence Kailin, who devoted his life to good though often lost causes, and who said, upon learning of the song composed in his honor, that “all songs of praise should be both modest and collective.” Cahalan said she wished there could be a collective award and that it should really go “to all the many folks in Greenbelt working together for the common good.”

“My reaction was one of overwhelming gratitude to be living in Greenbelt and the recognition that there were so many other Greenbelt folks who deserved it more than I did,” she said. The song about Clarence ends with a thanks for someone who “has raised our voices higher,” which is a goal of Cahalan. “I am hoping that the Outstanding Citizen award helps me and others to ‘raise our voices higher,’” she says. “Being affirmed by the community in this way increased my feeling of being included and made me aware of how much we depend on each other. I am very grateful for the decision we made over 40 years ago to settle in Greenbelt,” says Cahalan. She also says that the experience of being recognized has made her want to affirm and take time to express her appreciation of others, too.

The award gave Cahalan a boost in morale and determination. “I am 77 years old, and sometimes it’s hard to sustain work over a long period of time without feeling at times one’s efforts do not amount to much,” she says of volunteering and working for environmental causes over the decades. “In my personal life I know I have been lucky,”



PHOTO BY JOE ROBBINS

Outstanding Citizen 2022 Maggie Cahalan works in a raised bed at the CHEARS Three Sisters garden at the Community Center. The garden is dedicated to starting new plants and trees. In the photo there are rosemary, milkweed, sage and paw paw.

she says. “The award humbled me and made me realize this even more but things like the recent court decisions in the wider national scene against affirmative action, student debt relief and LGBTQ rights make it hard to keep carrying on sometimes. The award and the encouragement of being appreciated continue to give me some needed new energy and help me renew my commitment to the projects that are important to me.”

Cahalan also finds that the recognition has led to some recognition and greater legitimacy for the projects she works on, including CHEARS (the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society), a nonprofit dedicated to the health of the Chesapeake watershed environment and those who share it. It’s helped garner more volunteers, for which Cahalan says she is very grateful. She has a “renewed sense of how important it is to work together with partners and appreciate the work of others – each with different gifts – to ‘Keep on Keeping On!’,” she says, quoting civil rights activist and composer Len Chandler’s song of the same name.

Since receiving the award last year Cahalan has continued to work on environmental issues through CHEARS, especially around food systems, climate justice and seed saving, she says. These projects include The Chesapeake Intergenerational Open Seed Quest (CHIO-SQ), started in 2019 to foster increased community engagement in seed saving of open pollinated and culturally meaningful seeds, and a related Black-led seed company, begun in 2022, dedicated to helping

folks of all ethnicities in learning about and growing culturally meaningful seeds. Cahalan also works with the Earth Squad on the stream water quality monitoring of Indian Creek Tributary and three other streams in Maryland. She helps with workshops and creating computer models of the impact of sustainable agriculture and low-impact practices that foster watershed health, and supports the Great Food Transformation (to a plant-based diet) in this decade.

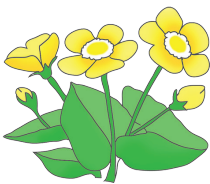
Keep on Keeping On!

“Work together, Keep on Keeping On, try and retry and carry it on!” says Cahalan, who imagines Greenbelt as a community creating a beautiful quilt from the pieces each works on. “Greenbelt has a special history, both of a utopian co-op community and as a white-only community of the 1930s to 1950s, representing legalized

white supremacy segregation,” says Cahalan. It’s also a city with a “long tradition of trying to overcome these things,” she notes. “My advice is to keep on struggling to become an inclusive community and a community that helps rather than hinders [with] the climate and environmental crisis. Together, we can Carry It On, building on work done by those before us and if we can’t go on any longer, we can take the hand of our strong sisters and brothers ready to lead and help us!”

Nominations Due

As Cahalan notes, there are many Greenbelters who volunteer and should be recognized. If a person you wanted was nominated and not yet selected, just keep trying. Sometimes, one is not selected on the first or third nomination. Nominations are due by Monday, July 31. Get your nominations in and ask others who support your nominee to send in a nomination form or letter of support to outstandingcitizengb@gmail.com. See nomination form on page 9.



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PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Councilmember Ric Gordon receives a citation from Governor Wes Moore on July 10 for his efforts with Greenbelt Pride Fest and Parade festivities, creating safe spaces here in Greenbelt.

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Greenbelt East Condos/HOAs Update Council at Worksession

by Carol Griffith

Public safety and associated quality of life issues in Greenbelt East dominated the Greenbelt City Council June 12 worksession with the Greenbelt East Homeowners/Condominium Associations. The full council met with representatives of two phases of Greenbriar, Greenspring I and II, Greenwood Village, Hunting Ridge, the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition and Rick Cummings, vice president of Condominium Venture, Inc. (CVI), the management firm serving many of the condominiums in Greenbelt. Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers and Interim City Manager Timothy George attended remotely.

Mayor Emmett Jordan began the session by asking for updates from the group. Most reported that their association has been meeting in person or plans to discontinue virtual meetings soon.

Trash

Trash in the field at Hanover Parkway at Ora Glen Drive was reported by Marti Galvin of Hunting Ridge, who expressed concerns about persons smoking marijuana in the field with children playing nearby. She asked for an increased police presence in the area. Cummings said he believed the trash accumulation was largely due to people congregating at the nearby bus stops and admitted it was an ongoing issue. Further discussion of trash problems included the topic of composting. Cummings pointed out that some ways of composting food scraps encourage rodents. Jordan said that the city has a grant for a pilot program for composting but that the process is “labor intensive.” Debra Eubanks, representing Greenspring I, asked for city assistance in enforcing trash regulations, and Cummings added parking as an area also needing city enforcement.

Short-term Rentals

Jordan then led the discussion to short-term rentals and asked for attendees’ observations of the effect on their communities. Councilmember Judith Davis explained that in order to rent a home for a short term, as through Airbnb, the owner was required to register the rental with the county, and in turn the county was required to maintain a list of short-term rentals and to notify the city of its homes approved for short-term rental. She noted the “difficulty” the city had in getting the information from the county, and that the city relied heavily on neighbors informing the city authorities of unauthorized short-term rentals. Cummings agreed with Jordan that residents should report these problems to Code Enforcement staff, adding that the situation was a “tough battle.”

Unsafe Conditions

Jordan continued the discussion by asking if having multiple families in a unit was a problem for participants’ communities. Cummings was adamant that splitting up bedrooms to create more rooms was a large problem and emphasized the unsafe conditions created by this practice. He encouraged the attending representatives to inform Code Enforcement if they had evidence

in their communities of multiple families in a unit or saw evidence of construction without a permit. Cummings added that realtors listing a unit with more bedrooms than the unit should have compounds the problem, as was the practice of “flipping” units after subdividing them, often by accepting a cash payment for the unit. Multiple families in a unit adds to parking problems in a community as each unit is allotted only one parking space. Council seemed surprised by the problems disclosed in the discussion: Jordan said it was “hard to get a handle on” and Councilmember Ric Gordon said he was “stunned.”

Crime

Another topic of long discussion was that of crime in Greenbelt East. Jordan called on Bowers, who reported that there was an increase in property crime in the city, specifically in theft of autos (which has increased 400 percent recently) and theft from autos of personal belongings. He noted that Hyundai and Kia cars are especially susceptible due to their design, and that in response the police have done outreach with residents to educate them and have given away anti-theft devices.

The department’s Community Action Team has been very involved in all areas of the city. Jordan noted that three associations – Windsor Green, Greenbriar and Hunting Ridge – have joined to hire private security patrols. Cummings added that the patrols have been successful, and described their procedures. Bowers also reported that the police have been meeting with the local schools, especially the school resource officers, and that truancy is a problem. The police department also works in cooperation with other police jurisdictions on

areas of mutual concern.

Noting the impact of proper lighting on public safety, Jordan asked about the level of lighting and if tree canopy interference with lighting was a problem. He mentioned that Pepco owns many of the lights in Greenbelt East and is in the process of replacing current lights with LEDs. No specific problems were mentioned regarding lighting.

To Jordan’s question about use of security cameras, Cummings replied that in Hunting Ridge creating one-way roads throughout the community helped in deterring crime and noted that many residents had Ring-type cameras. Bowers added there was a “heavy use” of such cameras and that residents could voluntarily register their cameras with the company providing the service and that police could obtain the camera’s video, if needed, from the company and not the resident.

As the meeting concluded, Jordan reminded the meeting participants of the American Rescue Plan Act funds available as grants for various purposes. Cummings stated that CVI had applied for grants for the purpose of planting trees on the properties it manages.

Yarn and Darn Meets Wednesdays

Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, rug hookers, seamsters et al., bring your portable fiber arts to the Community Center to chat and socialize while working on individual projects.

This is a free social meet-up. Participants must bring their own projects and materials. No registration required. Meetings are Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 113.

Email alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Ukraine Expert to Discuss War Complexities July 30

by Donna Hoffmeister

The war in Ukraine has been plagued by a disturbing amount of confusion and misinformation. Join a compelling discussion on the Myths of the Ukrainian War with speaker Peter Voitsek-hovsky. The event, organized by the Peace & Justice Coalition, will be held on Sunday, July 30 at 2 p.m. in Room 202 of the Community Center.

Voitsekhovsky, a native Ukrainian, has lived in the D.C. area since 2004. In 2012, he obtained a Ph.D. in government and politics from the University of Maryland. Currently, he serves as a writer and analyst at the U.S. Ukraine Foundation in D.C. A highly sought-after simultaneous translator at conferences worldwide who is proficient in Ukrainian and Russian, he provided translation services for President Volodymyr Zelensky at an International Monetary Fund-World Bank meeting on April 21, 2022.

Voitsekhovsky’s extensive background includes previous



PHOTO COURTESY PETER VOITSEKHOVSKY

Peter Voitsek-hovsky, the speaker for the Peace & Justice Coalition event on Sunday, July 30

engagements with the Center for the Study of Post-Communist Societies at the University of Maryland and participation in USAID-funded development projects in Ukraine. He has also held teaching positions at the Ukrainian Academy of Public Administration and the Metchnikoff University of Odessa in Ukraine.

This event aims to shed light on the misconceptions surrounding the conflict in Ukraine and provide an opportunity to delve into its complexities.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

Three muskrats at Greenbelt Lake



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School News

Board of Ed Superintendent Contract, Farewells, Calls for Recess, PLA, Books

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education held its final meeting of the school year on Thursday, June 22. The board began a six-week break on June 26.

Chair Judy Mickens-Murray reported that the board attended their annual end-of-year retreat June 16-17. “This retreat was a very meaningful one,” she reported. “There were honest, sharing and engaging conversations ... as we acknowledge painful pasts to transition to a more productive future as a board.”

Leaders

New leaders and members were announced for the board’s three standing committees. The Policy and Governance Committee will be led by Chair Walter Fields (appointed) and Vice Chair Jonathan Briggs (who represents District 2, which includes Greenbelt). The Operations, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee will be chaired by Shayla Adams-Stafford (District 4) and Dr. Kenneth Harris II (District 7) will serve as vice chair. The Academic Achievement Committee will continue to be chaired by Zipporah Miller (District 5) and Pamela Boozer-Strother (District 3) will serve as vice chair.

Recognition

Curtis Valentine
(at-large, appointed)

Appointed Member Curtis Valentine was recognized as he left the board after 10 years. He spoke about accomplishments and a love for PGCPS and his commitment to the county. He spoke, also, of time he’d missed with his family during his time on the board.

Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz
(student member)

Outgoing Student Board Member Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz was also recognized for his service. Ceron-Ruiz, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School student, has served on the board for two years and was the county’s first Latino student board member. He recently graduated from ERHS and received a full scholarship to the University of Maryland.

Monica Goldson (CEO)

It was the final school board meeting for Monica Goldson, retiring CEO. Goldson spoke of her pride for the schools and students. Retirement is not the end but beginning of a new chapter, she said. Indeed, in June Goldson was appointed to the Maryland State Board of Education by Governor Wes Moore. Goldson recognized food workers, bus drivers, teachers, staff and the people who make up PGCPS. Notably she did not recognize the school board, a body she previously criticized as dysfunctional and whose acrimony she cited in her retirement announcement (see the January 11, 2023, issue of the News Review). Goldson was a much admired and beloved leader of PGCPS and worked for the school district for over 32 years. During the public comments section of the meeting many paid their respects and offered thanks, one tearfully.

Superintendent’s Contract

The board passed the incoming superintendent’s contract outlining duties and responsibilities as well as compensation. It was a unanimous vote without discussion. The contract shows that the position comes with an annual salary of \$345,000, which will increase with a 2.5 percent COLA each year. The superintendent is also entitled to \$15,000 in expenses annually and up to \$50,000 reimbursement for relocation expenses. He will also receive 30 days of annual leave a year and is entitled to 20 sick days. Millard House II, recently appointed superintendent of PGCPS by County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, assumed the role on July 1.

(House Bill 0437, effective July 1, changes the title of Chief Executive Officer back to the previous title of superintendent. It also establishes an Office of Integrity and Compliance to oversee PGCPS. For more on this see “School Board Objects to New County Accountability Office” in the May 18 issue.)

Emergency Item

The board added an emergency item to the agenda, Compensation Changes Due to the Fair Wage Act of 2023. The Fair Wage Act raises the minimum wage in Maryland to \$15 per hour effective January 2024. It had previously been scheduled to increase to \$14 at that time. The budget implication for the school board is expected to be \$10,500. The board passed the item unanimously and without discussion.

Plea for Recess

Parent Lorena Silva, speaking during the public comment period, asked for recess time for middle and high school students. Currently in PGCPS only elementary school students have recess. The Centers for Disease Control and the American Association of Pediatrics recommend recess time for all scholars, argued the mother of a sixth grader. “We all, as human beings, need breaks during the day,” she told the board. Silva argued that recess time has been shown to help students connect with peers, leads to better physical and mental health, helps them decompress so they can perform better and adapt better, improves memory, attention and concentration and gives children a chance to breathe fresh air.

Labor Agreement


Several speakers called on the board to institute a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the new schools being built. A PLA

is a collective bargaining agreement in the construction industry. Lamar Mutts of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters spoke of how a PLA would help hire youths and teach them trades. He pointed to problems with youth crime in the county and argued that PLAs and unions “encourage them to put down guns and pick up tools.”

Britton Loftin, of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, told the board that the prevailing wage (referring to recently passed legislation, House Bill 549) doesn’t mean they’ll be hiring local workers. He said there are three active wage theft cases in the PGCPS P3 construction projects right now, which was “shameful.” He and several other speakers asked for a PLA to be in place for phase two of the project. (For more on calls for union workers to build the county’s new schools see Rally in Greenbelt to Build Schools with Union Labor in the March 2, 2023 issue.)

Physical Book Request

Elementary school teacher Annette Jones told the board she was dismayed to learn she will receive only 60 copies of the science textbook to use with an entire grade next year, which includes 90 and 120 students. She has been told students should be relying more on technology, she said. Jones told the board some students have no internet at home, or they have limited and unstable internet; many experience problems logging in and parents request printed copies. She asked how she could distribute the textbooks fairly when all students would benefit from one.



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Middle and High School Clear Backpack Policy Now Official

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

It has now been confirmed that middle and high school students in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) will be required to carry clear backpacks beginning this fall. The measure had been reportedly in the works and communicated by some schools for several months (and as we reported in our June 22 issue), however no one at various PGCPS offices we contacted was able to share the policy or confirm it over recent weeks. Now, the school system’s website states: “For all middle and high school students, if a backpack is carried, it must be clear.” Newly hired Superintendent Millard House II publicly announced the policy during a question-and-answer session on July 11, one day after a 17-year-old student brought a loaded gun to school in his waistband on the first day of summer school at a county high school.

“There is no tolerance for weapons inside of our schools or on our school grounds or on our school buses,” said House. “We’ll be working with local affiliates like your Targets and Walmarts plus Amazon to recommend to our parents where they can go get these backpacks,” he said. House said there would be help for students who can’t afford backpacks and the school system will be giving away 10,000 clear backpacks at back-to-school events.

Cristina Kallon, principal’s secretary at Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI), a K-8 school in Greenbelt, told the News Review that the school received updated information about backpacks from PGCPS on Monday, July 17. “Parents in K-8 schools are encouraged (not mandated) to have their elementary school students carry a clear backpack, in order to maintain consistent schoolwide expectations,” read the clarification from the county. “With this amendment, DKFI will not mandate that elementary school students carry clear backpacks; middle school students, however, must carry clear backpacks,” said Principal James Spence in an email to parents on Monday. For those in kindergarten to fifth grade it will be strongly encouraged but not mandated, confirmed Kallon. Principals of K-8 schools had been reaching out to those higher up in PGCPS for further guidance since the announcement of the middle and high school requirements, said Kallon. She also said they had not yet received information about how to deal with the situa-



tion of a child coming to school without a clear backpack. Kallon suggested a security guard may be able to do a manual backpack inspection in that case, but staff are waiting for further direction and clarification.

“They don’t necessarily bring firearms to school to do harm,” suggested House, speaking about the issue of students with guns, “they’re bringing firearms in many cases to protect themselves to and from school.” House said he is also creating a school bus safety workgroup and driver and passenger safety training. Last month three teenagers attempted to murder a 14-year-old student on a county school bus, but their gun malfunctioned.

The clear backpack rule is receiving mixed reception among parents. Many are happy to adopt measures that might make schools safer. Some are concerned about the strength of plastic backpacks when students carry heavy books and laptops and some, particularly parents of teen girls, have expressed privacy concerns for those who will need to carry menstrual products.



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JOE'S continued from page 1

growing up in Baltimore not having a place like this, to come in as a kid, hang out with friends, have some food, everyone knows your name, asks how your family is doing. It's always been about the community, which I really took to heart moving to Greenbelt. I was accepted here, by the employees and my friends, for who I was, just an amazing thing."

As an adult, Mengel continued living in Greenbelt and began working in food service, progressing to chef and manager at Martin's Crosswinds, behind Greenway Center. In February 2017 he asked Joe Jr. for a job and he started the next day. He told Joe he would be interested in taking on the restaurant when he was ready to retire. By Labor Day that year, Joe asked him to manage the restaurant, which enabled Joe to focus on the business paperwork and regain some personal time. Mengel described Joe Jr. as a father figure.

"Greenbelt is my home," he said. "I walk to work, I see my customers and my neighbors and we stop to talk. I want to keep that alive, especially with newer people coming to Greenbelt. You want to make sure this is something that can last as long as we possibly can. It's influenced my life, so I can only imagine what it will do for future generations." Mengel's goal was to own a restaurant by age 30. Earlier this year, Joe asked Mengel if he was ready and passed the torch to him in June 2023. Mengel had just turned 31.

"Aaron is a natural fit," said Joe. "He's more or less a Greenbelt boy. He's got a lot of experience, he's a hard worker and knows how to cook. I have no doubt he can handle it and it's a good transition. I'm glad he wanted to do it."

Carrying Tradition

The deli's menu reflects creativity and family. Mengel said, "Joe gave me a lot of artistic control. As long as he liked the food he was eating, he knew the customers would." The crab-cake sandwich is a recipe Mengel created when working at a Baltimore crab shack with his mother. "That's a recipe I came up with when I was 13," he said. "To this day I use it here and with family." The Italian dressing is Mrs. Natoli's recipe. Mengel introduced a Greek salad at Joe's when DC Vegan took over the New Deal Café kitchen and found the previous staff's feta cheese and offered it to Joe's. Mengel added kalamata olives and red onions for a traditional Greek salad which customers love.

Mengel said Joe's 11-person crew has a passion for cooking and customer service. "Some workers just need a little extra money while going to college and we fit them in as best we can. But no matter who they are and how much they work they're all treated as family."



Customers order and await takeout at lunchtime on Thursday, June 29.

PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

When asked what will change and what will stay the same, Mengel said, "We're ready to add things to the menu, but we will always be Generous Joe's, keeping Joe's dream alive and being there for the community."

And the painting of Golden will continue to hang above the booths, keeping an eye on things.

Community Support

Many small businesses across the country closed during Covid-19, especially restaurants. Mengel said, "If it wasn't for the community supporting us through that hard time, we wouldn't be here. That is why it's so important we are part of the community and the community is part of us."

Brian Sutherland has worked at Joe's for 25 years, since Joe Jr. hired him on the spot in 1998 when Famished Fannie's closed and he was out of a job. He said retirement will be healthy for Joe and he views the transition as a good thing.

Jeff Demas, Metro bus mechanic and Joe's delivery driver, said: "I grew up with Aaron, he's been my brother for the past 13, 14 years. He's a great person, very customer service-oriented and very generous, and that follows suit with [Joe's] for the last 60 years. I've been working here since 2010. I have nothing but the utmost respect for Joe, his family and Aaron. [I told Aaron] I'd help him further his dream. It's a great thing, to keep it in the community."

Wendy Cooler and son Ob Cooler-Stith were at Joe's for lunch. She said, "I'm thrilled Aaron is taking over Generous Joe's. I feel like this is one of the beautiful love stories of Greenbelt, this relationship with Joe and Aaron. I love the way Aaron has grown ... the food offerings, and the way the space feels. I'm just glad to see this institution continue, under Aaron's leadership. Both my kids have grown up coming to Joe's. Being able to come here and hang out with your friends is a teenage rite of passage in Greenbelt, and I'm really glad as a parent, that my kids have had this space to be with their friends and have some autonomy in the neighborhood. I always feel that they're safe and well taken care of when they come here."

Mengel concluded with gratitude. "The family and friends I've made in Greenbelt helped me become the man I am today, so as much as Greenbelt has done for me, I've got to give back to the community. If it weren't for Joe trusting me with his family's dream, I wouldn't have been able to achieve my own, to be there for more people and help more people. It's amazing I have this in my life, and I wouldn't have it any other way, to be able to carry on that atmosphere of love and respect."

Golden Joe Remembered



PHOTO BY JUDY MCCORD

Joe Natoli Sr. greets customers with a smile in September 2012.

I read your articles on Generous Joe's Deli being sold and thought I would share this photo I took of Joe Sr. in September of 2012, I believe. Thought you could use for your next article if needed or at least maybe share with his son.

Having grown up in Greenbelt, I have great memories of going to Golden Joe's with friends. Joe was always so welcoming when you walked in the door with his big smile. He made everyone feel at home. I believe I snapped this shot when I went to Joe's after returning from the West Coast after several years to see he still had that great smile and warm welcome.

Great articles, looking forward to the third one!
Judy McCord

Community Orchestra Needs Musicians

A community orchestra is starting in Greenbelt in July. There is still room for more violins, violas, double basses and some other instruments. For more information, contact Anne Gardner at annegreenbelt@gmail.com or visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org

2023 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination Form

Submit this form (or something equivalent) by **July 31** to Bob Zugby
Outstanding Citizen Committee
94 Ridge Road, Greenbelt MD 20770
or OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement (preferably printed or typed) explaining why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen. Possible subjects include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments during their service, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. The award is for **unpaid** volunteer work only.

Any supporting printed material is useful, but not required. Others' testimonials are also helpful.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **July 31 deadline**.

Nominated by: _____

Name(s)	Signature(s)	Telephone
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We need your input—thank you!

Senior Homeowner Tax Credit Available for Next Fiscal Year

Beginning July 1, Prince George's County will provide up to a 20 percent credit of the county portion of some older residents' property tax bills, inclusive of any Homeowners and Homestead Credit (for a total maximum of 20 percent), for up to five years.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this credit one must meet all the following criteria: 1) be a homeowner aged 65 and over (by June 30); 2) own and reside in the property for at least the previous 10 years; 3) the assessed value of the property must not exceed \$500,000 as of July 1, 2023; and 4) applications must be received by October 1 of the fiscal year the credit is sought (for example, October 1, 2023, for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024).

Property Assessed Value

A prior year tax bill reflects the assessed value; however, this value updates effective July 1 of each year as provided by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. If one does not have a tax bill available, look up the account using the street address on the Tax Inquiry page at taxinquiry.princegeorgescountymd.gov/TaxInquiry.aspx.

To Apply

Applications are available online at princegeorgescountymd.gov/426/Property-Taxes. Applications can be submitted to the Prince George's County Office of Finance – Treasury Division by U.S. Mail or email at the addresses shown on the application.

This article was created from Prince George's County government documents and informational publications from the county's Treasury Division.



Free Veteran Lifetime National Park Passes



PHOTO COURTESY NPS

A park pass

The National Park Service offers free Veterans Lifetime passes as well as Access passes for disabled veterans in appreciation for the sacrifice and service of those who have served in the military.

The lifetime veteran passes and access passes are available at the Greenbelt Park ranger station near the campground. For more information, call 301-344-3944.

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Forest Preserve Master Trail Plan Draws Fire and Kudos

by Alex Barnes

Greenbelt City Council held a worksession on Wednesday, July 5 in the council chambers to discuss the Greenbelt Forest Preserve Master Trail Plan (MTP) with the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) and the public. In attendance were all the members of council (Councilmember Colin Byrd virtually), eight members of the FPAB, city environmental coordinator and FPAB’s staff liaison Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll and Interim City Manager Tim George. The discussion lasted until shortly after 9 p.m., followed by councilmembers discussing council’s upcoming meetings. This included calling a special meeting during the worksession to vote on having an executive session on Friday, July 7 to discuss the search for the next city manager. The vote passed without discussion with only Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed.

In general, council, with the exception of Roberts, described the MTP as very well developed and complimented the FPAB members for their good work. The MTP will be added to council’s August meeting for official action.

Background

The Forest Preserve was legislated by the city in October 2003 and comprises 261 acres over six tracts: North, South (aka Hamilton), Boxwood, Belle Point, Sunrise and Greenbriar (Section 12-143 of the revised City Code). Councilmember Judith Davis recalled that when the preserve was originally created, council’s philosophy was to let it be; however, two decades later council now realizes that with people using it, some maintenance is necessary.

The FPAB was tasked by council to develop a master trail plan for the Forest Preserve three years ago. The FPAB used the Greenbelt Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines, approved by council in December 2019, to develop the MTP. According to FPAB’s report to council on June 4, “The Guidelines indicate a need for a formal trail maintenance program to rein in vigilante trail and tree maintenance in the preserve. The MTP would allow for limited maintenance activities to address trail issues and their impact in the health of the forest.”

FPAB member John Paul Schmitt presented the trail plan via a slide show. The goal of trail management, according to the presentation, “is to provide preserve visitors with hiking opportunities in a natural setting, while ensuring the protection of the surrounding environment.” Trail problems described were steep stream banks, eroded trails, muddy areas, stream crossings, sensitive habitats, hazardous areas, informal trails, fallen trees and other trail blockages.

Roberts expressed concern that the MTP was going to turn the preserve into a park. Davis appreciated Roberts for raising this concern, saying, “We need folks to keep us on our toes so that we don’t make it a park.” However, she, along with Councilmember Kristen Weaver disagreed, stating that Roberts’s concerns were addressed in the plan and suggesting that Roberts had not read

it. FPAB member Owen Kelley said that the plan codifies what Roberts advocates.

Fallen Trees?

Roberts continued his objections to any trail maintenance by asking, “Why is a fallen tree a problem?” and stating that negotiating natural obstacles is what the preserve is about.

FPAB member Susan Gregersen explained that when people go around a fallen tree, they are creating more trails and therefore increasing the human impact on the preserve. Catharine Plaisant, via an online comment, described seeing orchids destroyed by people walking around fallen trees. FPAB members emphasized that the philosophy underpinning the trail plan is to do the least maintenance possible. FPAB member Beth Novick explained that more people will want to save the preserve if they are able to experience it and that is why doing some trail maintenance is important.

Weaver said that the plan describes how to do the least possible maintenance that will prevent increased damage by people. Roberts questioned whether Public Works would have the resources to maintain the preserve. Carpenter-Driscoll envisioned leading parties of volunteers to address issues, as was done with a pilot project for the Pumpkin Walk trail in the Hamilton tract.

Liability Concerns

Mayor Emmett Jordan wondered if the MTP was putting the Forest Preserve into the concept of “state of good repair” and thus creating a liability concern for the

city. FPAB Co-chair Damien Ossi said that they did look at the trail standards from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Americans with Disabilities Act, but that the U.S. Forest Service standards, specifically the Federal Wilderness trail maintenance standards, are more appropriate. Roberts recalled that when the city created the preserve, Greenbelt’s legal counsel advised that maintaining the trails would expose the city to liability. FPAB member Bryan Burns stated that the preserve is not a park and therefore the expectations are less. He furthermore said that Maryland law clearly protects landowners from liability concerns.

Barrier Free Trail

Jordan asked about the woods between Hamilton Place and Gardenway. Schmitt responded that there used to be a trail there, but now it is overgrown. He further said that the MTP describes that area as the most appropriate for creating a more accessible “barrier free” trail in the preserve.

Kudos to FPAB

Council thanked the members of the FPAB for their years-long effort in creating the MTP. Jordan said it is well thought-out and very detailed. Councilmember Silke Pope said Greenbelt is fortunate to have the members of the FPAB giving their time and expertise. Councilmember Ric ‘No Eagle Scout’ Gordon expressed appreciation for the MTP establishing trail consistency so that someone like him would not become lost in the forest.



PHOTO BY HELENOR MESIAS

A pair of Canada geese by Greenbelt Lake at sunrise



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Clematis (Roguchi clematid)



PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER

Mountain laurel in the woods



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“A Fall Into Redemption”

A memoir by longtime Greenbelt resident Tom Hibbs about his son Tyler’s remarkable but short life. It’s a memoir of compelling baseball stories and heartbreak, but ultimately of hope amidst terrible tragedy. Available at Amazon.

LEGAL NOTICES

DEED NOTICE: SIMBA KINGA PROJECT TRUST whose mailing address is 1500 Pointer Ridge Place STE 1816 Bowie, Maryland state [20717] has Superior Claim and was GRANTED ALL RIGHTS and TITLE on the 3rd day of March, 2023 for all the following Private real property Latitude 38.891170 and longitude - 76.6912770, GPS coordinates: 38° 53’ 28.212” N 76° 41’ 28.572”

W. ARVEST BANK is not a Party to the Deed and has no authority to Appoint Substitute Trustees. All trustees or substitute trustees listed in Deed of Appointment of Substitute Trustee filed on June 2, 2023 at 8:05 am in BOOK: 48872 PAGE: 420 are hereby removed as such appointments are no longer applicable or valid.

Notice of Unauthorized Trust Appointment <https://tinyurl.com/noticeunauthorizedappoint>

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred July 11 - 17. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Sexual Assault

On July 16 at 10:58 p.m. near 9000 Edmonston Road a sexual assault was reported.

Attempted Armed Robbery

On July 11 at 10:53 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man was approached from behind by a suspect wearing a ski mask and dark colored clothing. The suspect then placed a gun up against the man's back and told him to "Give it up." The man turned towards the suspect and began to fight and the suspect fled on foot. The man said nothing was taken from him.

Pedestrian Struck

On July 16 at 12:28 a.m. near 6200 Greenbelt Road, a man was struck by a vehicle and taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Assault

On July 11 at 4:03 p.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, two women were involved in a fight and charges were filed. On July 15 at 12:25 a.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, a man was cut during a fight with another man.

Missing Child Located

On July 12 at 2:55 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Mandan Road, a missing child was identified and returned to their mother.

Welfare Checks

On July 14 police performed a welfare check near 7700 Lakecrest Drive and an individual was transported to hospital. On July 15 police responded to a residence near 6000 Springhill Drive for a welfare check and mental health diversion.

Domestic Disturbances

On July 14 at 1:06 a.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, and at 1:29 p.m. near 7300 Hanover Parkway; on July 15 at 12:22 a.m. near 5900 Springhill Drive; on July 16 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane; on July 17 at 8:11 p.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road.

Disorderly Conduct

On July 16 at 3:40 p.m. near 9340 Edmonston Road, a man was urinating off the balcony and a neighbor complained.

Robbery

On July 16 at 8:34 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a cell phone and credit cards were stolen.

Fraud

On July 11 near 7200 Hanover Parkway, a credit card was used fraudulently.

Theft

Packages were stolen July 12 near 7800 Hanover Parkway and July 13 near 9100 Springhill Lane. On July 12 near 6200 Springhill Drive, a cell phone was stolen. On July 13 near 100 Centerway, a backpack was stolen from a locker.

Commercial Theft

Commercial theft occurred July 12 near 6000 Greenbelt Road and near 6300 Ivy Lane; July 14 at 3:21 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road; July 16 near 7600 Greenbelt Road and July 17 at 9:50 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road.

Vandalism

On July 17 near 6203 Springhill Drive, a residential window was broken.

Recovered Firearm

On July 11 near 20 Southway, a firearm that had been reported stolen was recovered.

Stolen Vehicles

Many vehicles were stolen this week including: on July 11, near 9100 Edmonston Court, a red 2015 Hyundai Sonata (MD plate 3EY3789); near 9100 Edmonston Court, a gray 2018 Hyundai Tucson (VA plate TPX3956); near 7400 Morrison Drive, a 2013 black Honda Civic (VA plate VRG5289); and near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, a 2017 gray Hyundai Elantra (MD plate 1EN5126). On July 12 near 7200 Morrison Drive, a 2015 Kia Forte (MD plate 3CC9632), and near 400 Ridge Road, a 2008 Toyota Corolla (MD plate 8DL4225); and near 9100 Springhill Court, a 2012 Hyundai Sonata with a dealership plate was reported stolen and later found with a broken window and damaged ignition. On July 13 near 7200 Hanover Drive, a 2014 white Ford F350 (PA plate ZCG5659) was stolen. On July 14 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a burgundy Scion XB (MD plate 3DH2852) was stolen. On July 15 near Ridge Road, a 2018 Kia Soul (MD plate 7DJ2545) was stolen. On July 16 near 7800 Jacobs Drive, a 2012 Honda Crosstour (MD plate 5DK7887) was stolen and recovered; and near 9100 Springhill Lane, a white Kia Optima (MD plate 9FH4329) was stolen. On July 17 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a 2019 Hyundai Elantra (MD plate 2DY2935) was stolen.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On July 11 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a 2014 Hyundai Elantra had a window broken and a 2015 Hyundai Elantra had a broken window and ignition; near Eastway and Ridge Road, a 2013 Hyundai had damage to the window, ignition switch and steering column. On July 16 near 6200 Breezewood Drive, a Kia Forte had a window broken and ignition damaged. On July 17 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a 2023 Kia Forte had a broken window and ignition damaged.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On July 11 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2017 Hyundai Sonata (MD 8EN2093) reported stolen was located with z damaged window and ignition. On July 16 near Greenbelt Road and Mandan Road, a stolen 2022 Toyota Supra (MD tag 4FB9101) was in an accident and the owner was notified. On July 16 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a stolen Hyundai Sonata (MD 37861CK) was found. On July 17 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a stolen 2020 white Hyundai Elantra (MD plate 3FA2499) was found.

Theft from Auto

On July 11 near 100 Westway, property was stolen from a 2007 Honda Civic. On July 12 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a 2014 BMW had a tag stolen. On July 12 near 200 Lakeside Drive, a 2006 Infiniti M35 (MD Tag 5DJ0716) had a tag stolen. On July 13 near 7500 Mandan Road, a 2013 red Kia Sorento had a window broken and handicap placard stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On July 11 near 6015 Springhill Drive, a group of teenagers broke the rear passenger window of a 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe; near 170 Westway, a Hyundai Sonata had a window and

ignition switch damaged, and a 2001 Ford pickup truck had a window broken; near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a 2010 Hyundai Elantra had a window broken; near 6200 Springhill Court, a 2020 Hyundai Santa Fe had a window broken; near 6000 Springhill Drive, a Kia Forte had a window broken and its ignition damaged; near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2017 Dodge Charger had a window broken.

On July 12 near 9200 Edmonston Road, a Hyundai Elantra had a window shattered; near 9100 Edmonston Road, a 2015 Hyundai Elantra had a window broken; and near 9100 Springhill Lane, a 2012 Ford Expedition had windows broken.

On July 13 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a BMW X5 had a window broken; near 7800 Somerset Court, a 2016 Kia Sorento had a window broken and ignition damaged; near 7200 Hanover Drive, a Ford F-150 had a window broken and property stolen; near 7200 Hanover Parkway, a 2017 Infiniti QX30 had the windshield damaged.

On July 14 near 8100 Mandan Terrace, a 2015 Chrysler 200 (MD plate 2FC0358) had a tag stolen, and near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a Toyota Corolla had a damaged windshield.

On July 15 near 6300 Golden Triangle Drive, five vehicles had windows broken out: a 2020 Nissan Altima, a 2014 Honda Accord, a 2016 Hyundai Elantra, 2018 Volkswagen, and a 2022 Chevy Blazer; and near 7400 Greenbelt Road, a 2017 Mercedes GLA had its window broken.

On July 16 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a black Toyota Camry had a window broken; near 8100 Mandan Terrace, a white Honda Civic had the ignition damaged and tools stolen; near 7300 Morrison Drive, a vehicle had a window broken and ignition damaged; and near 5993 Springhill Drive, a GMC Terrain had a window broken.



Anti-Street Racing Initiative by PGPD

On Friday, June 23, the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) kicked off a new initiative to address illegal pop-up car events that have been occurring in the county. These events have attracted participants from all over the region as well as surrounding states. Participants block roadways, take over parking lots and drive recklessly causing property damage and creating a hazardous situation for drivers, spectators and innocent bystanders. Crowds gather around the event and attempt to prevent officers from taking enforcement action. Crowds of more than 150 people have attended these illegal events, say county police.

PGPD says they stand firmly against illegal and dangerous pop-up car events. Participants can be charged with misdemeanor crimes or violations of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Police Impersonator Caught, Arrested by Greenbelt Police



Carl Colston Jr., 47, of District Heights is photographed while impersonating a police officer. He was subsequently arrested by the Greenbelt Police Department.

The Greenbelt Police Department arrested 47-year-old Carl Colston Jr. of District Heights, for impersonation of a police officer.

On Saturday, July 8, around 3 p.m., a Greenbelt Police officer responded to the report of an armed person at the northbound off-ramp of Greenbelt Road at Kenilworth Avenue. The victim stated he was driving when a man, later identified as Colston, driving a black Crown Victoria drove up behind him and started honking and flashing white interior lights at the victim. The victim waved to indicate the car go around him, and Colston passed the victim and flashed a badge. He then stopped in the roadway, forcing the victim to stop, and drove back behind the victim like a police officer would and tried to conduct a traffic stop.

The victim reported that Colston grabbed a tactical vest, put it on, showed a badge and stated he was the police and was calling for backup while speaking into a handheld radio. Colston then grabbed a black pistol, did not point it at the victim, but lifted it up so that it was visible to the victim. The victim told Colston he was calling the police and recording him, Colston then got back into his car and drove away from the area.

A warrant was obtained for Colston in relation to this incident and he was arrested on Thursday, July 13, at approximately 9:10 p.m. after a traffic stop.

Anyone who may have had an interaction with Colston presenting himself as law enforcement is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.



Equipment seized with police impersonator

- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Police

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When Planting Near a Tree: Ideas for Keeping Roots Safe

by Susan Cahill

Installing native pollinator plants has become a crusade among many Greenbelters, as natural habitats are lost to ever-increasing development in our area. As I embarked on another planting binge recently, I began to wonder if I was harming trees. They generally have very wide root systems; a tree with a trunk just 6 inches across may have a root spread of almost 20 feet. Was my digging damaging tree roots in ways that could cause permanent harm?

Trees under stress – including from root damage – are more vulnerable to disease, and with climate change here for the foreseeable future, our trees don’t need any more stressors. Some species of oaks, for example, are in serious decline in Maryland, including Greenbelt, for reasons known and unknown.

To help me make sense of the disparate information I found online, I contacted Dr. Eric Wiseman, urban-forestry professor at Virginia Tech, who validated my concerns. He suggested that, for practical purposes, the following guidelines can help avoid damaging trees when planting near them (with the caveat that a tree’s age, size, health and species can influence how well or poorly it toler-

ates disturbance of its root zone).

(1) Dig planting holes at a distance at least three times the diameter of the tree trunk. (Example: if the trunk is 2 feet across, dig the hole at least 6 feet away from the trunk.) Designating this as a “no-dig” zone should prevent wounds, and subsequent decay, in large structural roots.

(2) In a given growing season, avoid disturbing more than 25 percent of the soil that surrounds the “no-dig” zone above, up to the tree’s dripline (defined below). This “partial-dig” zone around the “no-dig” zone is an important area for the thin, sometimes hair-like roots that are close to the soil surface and absorb water and nutrients that sustain the tree. Unlike the structural roots, these shallow absorbing roots grow back fairly quickly, so a tree may be able to withstand digging here, if it’s only a limited amount each season.

To visualize what the dripline is, imagine the tree’s crown as an umbrella that keeps the soil under it dry on a rainy day. The dripline would be an imaginary circle drawn around the outer edge of the dry soil.

Another consideration is that installing lots of plants might

cause trees near them to have to compete for water and nutrients. The density of existing vegetation in the space where you’re planting, compared with the health of its trees, can provide a clue as to how much competition they might be able to handle.

Why should we care? Trees produce some of the oxygen we breathe and remove large amounts of pollution from the air, as well as carbon dioxide that could otherwise reach toxic levels. Trees in adequate numbers could help slow climate change. They provide habitat for insects and birds that pollinate a sizable portion of our food crops, and habitat for mammals that scavenge detritus that otherwise would create stench all around us. The scavengers turn the detritus into nature’s fertilizer for growth of trees and other plants that support the pollinators crucial to our food chain – crucial to the cycle of life.

Greenbelt Toastmasters Club Elects New Officers for 2023/4

by Jan Jackson

Lynne Rea Adams, distinguished toastmaster and past district director, was elected president of Greenbelt Toastmaster Club for the July 1 to June 30, 2023-24 Toastmaster year. Serving with her are Vice President of Education Rosanne Douglas and Treasurer David Alexander, of Greenbelt; Vice President of Membership Patricia Dukantas, of Lanham; Vice President of Public Relations Jan Jackson, of Salem, Ore.; Sergeant at Arms Dibya Ghosh, of College Park; and Secretary Gibril Dumbuya, of Laurel.

Adams, currently a team manager for a major manufacturing company, is a native of Birmingham, United Kingdom. She moved to Baltimore in 1990, joined Toastmasters in 2000 and has reached the highest Education award in Toastmasters. She expressed her primary goal for the coming year.

“The Greenbelt club is a very strong and very diverse club, with a lot of members at different stages in their growth as speak-



PHOTO COURTESY LYNNE REA ADAMS

Lynne Rea Adams

ers and leaders,” Adams said. “My goal is to help them meet the personal goals they’ve set for themselves for this coming year. Since what we are tomorrow depends on what we do today, I want to help them accomplish whatever they are wanting that to be.”

For more information, visit greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

UTOPIA continued from page 1

and attracts visitors from around the world.

Utopia Executive Director Chris Haley, nephew of Roots author Alex Haley and director of slavery research for the Maryland State Archives, shared his thoughts about honoring the birth of the New Deal.

“I think, especially where we are as a nation right now, this new award will remind us what the New Deal represented: bet-



PHOTO COURTESY OGT

ter opportunities to live if we act together as one community.



PHOTO BY MARC MANHEIMER

Two young eastern bluebirds sit on a bench at the lake, chatting about the passersby.



PHOTO BY LETTY BONNELL

A yellow bearded iris after April rain



PHOTO BY HIMA JANDHYALA

Blossoms by the Lake



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

A morning greeter at Greenbelt Lake

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See Patuxent Refuge On Saturday, July 22

Photo Scavenger Hunt
A photo scavenger hunt will take place on Saturday, July 22, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., for all ages, no registration required.

Using clues, individuals or groups can hunt for sculptured stones, mystery objects, plants and animals while learning about the history and features of the refuge. Bring a camera or cell-phone to record observations. This is a drop-in program: come and leave when ready. The activity requires driving a small area (1 to 2 miles) of the refuge and walking short distances near trails.

Guided Bike Ride
There will also be a guided bike ride that day, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for ages 10+. Register by calling 301-497-5887.

Experience local wildlife, plants and historical sites on this 12-mile guided ride. Bring a bicycle, helmet, snack and water bottle. The ride is weather-dependent. The road surface is rough asphalt and may not be suitable for narrow road tires.

Both activities take place on the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. Meet at the visitor contact station on Bald Eagle Drive, off Route 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 32.

New Area Code Now Added To the Local 240/301 Region

The Maryland Public Service Commission has announced that customers in the Maryland 240/301 area code overlay region may now be assigned a number with the new 227 area code when they request new service or an additional line. With new telephone numbers in high demand, the Maryland Public Service Commission approved the implementation of the new 227 area code to overlay the existing 240/301 area code region.

The 227 area code will co-exist with the 240 and 301 area codes. Customers receiving a 227 area code will be required to dial the area code and phone number for all local calls, just as customers with telephone numbers from the 240 and 301 area codes do today. Because dialing 10 digits (three-digit area code + seven-digit telephone number) is already well established in this region, the addition of the 227 area code will not require any changes to the way telephone calls are dialed, aside from using the new area code when necessary.

Following are key facts about the 240/301/227 area code overlay:

Telephone numbers, including the current area codes, will not change.

The price of a call, coverage area or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.

What is a local call now will remain a local call.

Customers will continue to dial 10 digits for local calls within and between the overlay area codes, and 1+10 digits for long-distance calls.

Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 911 and 988, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 and 811 if those are available in the community.

Customers should ensure that all services, automatic dialing equipment or other types of equipment recognize 227 as a valid area code and should continue to store or program telephone numbers as 10-digit numbers.

Those who would like more information should contact their local telephone service provider or visit the Maryland Public Service Commission's website at psc.state.md.us/telecommunications/new-227-area-code-coming-to-maryland-june-2023.

STRIBLING continued from page 1

There Sam won first place in the 11-and-under boys 200 m and 400 m and came in second with his relay team. It earned him a ticket to Junior Nationals for 2023. "Samuel Stribling is rated in the top five in the country in two events, the 200 meters and the 400 meters," said Burris.

Sam's relay team member Caleb Carter (11), of Bowie, also came in second place in the 200 m and 400 m finals and will

be joining Sam in each race at the AAU Junior Olympics. The pair have been running together since they were in the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club at age 5 and then they ran together at Glenarden.

The AAU Junior Olympics will be held July 26 through August 5. The Stribling family has a GoFundMe page to raise money to help offset the cost of entry fees and travel expenses ([gofund.me/2f36190b](https://www.gofundme.com/2f36190b)).



PHOTO COURTESY LAWANN STRIBLING

The 301 Panthers 4x100 11-12 year old relay team, from left, Khasi Rice, Caleb Carter, Xavier Duckett and Sam Stribling at AAU Regionals, where they qualified for the Junior Olympics



PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER

Ghost pipe (also called Indian pipes or Monotropa uniflora) found in Greenbelt woods



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

A belted kingfisher on a favorite perch at the Lake



PHOTO BY ERIC RAUN

A gray tree frog visits a potential breeding site in a garden plot on Hamilton Place.



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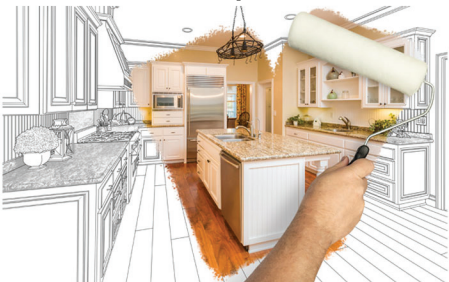


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Sports

Swim Team Has Fun While Training Hard

by Mabel A. West

On Saturday, July 15, the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team (GMST) concluded their regular league meets for the summer with a win against West Laurel. Their combined team points were 300 to West Laurel's 253. They finish the season having won three of their five meets and will send some of their fastest swimmers to the divisional competition this coming weekend. In addition, on Sunday they were one of five teams competing in a mini meet for 10 and under swimmers at Knights of Columbus in College Park and took second place.

The swim team's coaches are focused on helping swimmers excel and, at the same time, making sure they have fun. Recently, their longtime swimmer and head coach Cora Jackson went off to attend Vanderbilt University and the board members hired a new head coach, Zach Shattuck (see the article in the December 22, 2022 issue). Shattuck has been swimming for nine years, starting when he was 18 years old. Prior to working with GMST swimmers, he coached at University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., for two years. When asked his favorite stroke, he didn't hesitate, "definitely breaststroke!"

Talking about his coaching, Shattuck said he "loves working with kids every day and getting to see their love and joy at being in the water." "I also like seeing them develop as swimmers and as people. I like that swimming is both good for your physical and mental state and that it is an individual and team sport. I love this swim team, it's a very fun group, with unique and diverse kids who make every day full of fun," said Shattuck. It is obvious that he is passionate about swimming and loves coaching kids and helping them grow and learn.

This year the swim team, known as the Barracudas, also have a new assistant coach, Clara Breault. "I like coaching because I get to be involved and also give back to something that was such an integral part of my childhood," Breault said.

Swimming for the Greenbelt team takes time and dedication, with early morning practices every day during the week. The swimmers of various ages find lots of reasons to work hard at it as well as enjoy it – they all agree it's fun. Luell Colman, who has been on the swim team for a year and swims in the 9-10 age group, says, "I enjoy swimming because there is no gravity underwater and I like the swim team because everybody on the swim team is friendly." Annabelle Downs is also in the 9-10 group and has been on the team for five years. "It's fun, you learn something every day, and the coaches are nice," she says. Her sister Mia Downs swims in the 13-14 group and has been on the team for six years, "I get to do something I love, hang out with my friends, and have fun," said Mia.

For the first half of the summer the team combines their morning practices during the week with competition meets

every Saturday. Swimmers often have to be at the site by 7:40 a.m. and keep going past noon. Tea Rippon agrees with others that it's fun. Rippon swims in the 13-14 age group and has been on the team for six years. "I get to have fun with my friends at practice and swim meets," said Rippon. "I like the people, the friendships and the supportiveness. I like that the coaches always support us," says Noah Brittain, who has been swimming on the team for three years and is currently in the 15- to 18-year-old group.

The team's swimmers really enjoy swimming, it brings them all together and gives them an outlet for their energy and feelings while still doing something they love. The swim team is open to swimmers aged 6 to 18. Most of their youth coaches have swum on a summer swim team or are currently swimming with GMST.

The swim team is always open to anyone 18 or under who is looking for a good source of exercise, fun and excitement. The team will gladly take them in and make them feel at home in the community. Swimmers are kind to each other and respect each other's space, religion, accents, decisions and the way others swim. To learn more about the team, contact greenbeltswim@gmail.com.

Mabel West is a resident of Greenbelt and has been swimming with the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team since she was 6 years old. She now swims in the 11- to 12-year-old group.



Mabel West and Annabelle Downs add their hand prints on the GMST banner at the annual swim team potluck at the start of the season.



Noah Brittain swims breaststroke.



Mia Downs swims butterfly.



Tea Rippon swims breaststroke.



Zach Shattuck is the new head coach for Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team.

- Photos by Ken Loo



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Greenbelters’ Summer Travels with News Review



PHOTO COURTESY GINA OLIVA

Lore Rosenthal, Gina Oliva and Robin Sarracino share the News Review with the historic town of Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

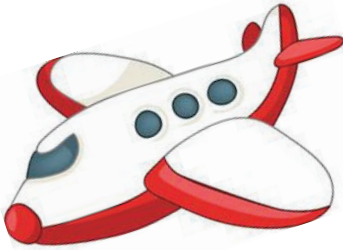


PHOTO BY JEREMY TUTHILL

Jackson Tuthill and the News Review visit the Tokyo Skytree. He is in Japan attending a language school.



PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

Daniel Hamlin checks out the News Review while cruising on the Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey.



PHOTO BY GINA OLIVA

Robin Sarracino and Lore Rosenthal in Ocean Grove, New Jersey in June

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.





PHOTO BY TOM SAVAGE

Carol Slatin and Abby and Ed Crowley take the News Review (and Micaela Crowley, not pictured) to Puerto Rico.



PHOTO BY LIN ORRIN

The News Review travels to Branch, Michigan (east of Ludington), to the home of woodworker and social activist Craig Convisor of Out of the Woodworks.